

**From:** John Blanton  
**To:** Ms. Renata B. Heese  
**Date:** 1/17/02 1:41pm  
**Subject:** Against Microsoft Settlement

Dear Ms. Heese:

I am writing in against the recent settlement of the long-running antitrust lawsuit between the U.S. Department of Justice, state attorneys general and Microsoft Corporation. I disappointed in the nine state attorneys general that decided to follow the federal government's lead and settle the case, I thoroughly approve of the decision by the remaining state attorneys general and the District of Columbia to further pursue this case.

The settlement acheives nothing. It leaves Microsoft in position to use Microsoft's Windows operating system as an unfair leverage against their competitors(such as they did with Netscape) and will leave consumers with less services and products to choose from.

As you are well aware, most, but not all, members of Citizens for a Sound Economy have been unrelenting in our opposition to the federal government's antitrust case against Microsoft. Myself, I thought the initial case did not go far enough. As someone who works daily with the internet and many different software packages, I have seen Microsoft use their knowledge of their own operating system to give themselves an unfair advantage over their competitors. By including more and more options, such as browsers and media players, in their OS and using their financial weight against OEMs (Original Equipment Manufacturers) they have eliminated many compeitiors.

I ask you to reconsider your decision to settle this appropriate lawsuit against a successful and predatory company.

Respectfully,

John Blanton  
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CC:  
Citizens for a Sound Economy